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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT
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E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: SCOM, US, FR, GE, BL
SUBJECT: SG REPORT ON KLAUS BARBIE CASE
USG REPORT ON KLAUS BARBIE CASE
1. JUSTICE IS RELEASING REPORT ON KLAUS BARBIE
INVESTIGATION AT 0900 EDT AUGUST 16 EMBARGOED UNTIL
1300 EDT SAME DATE. COPY OF REPORT GIVEN TO FRENCH,
GERMAN, BRITISH, YUGOSLAV AND BOLIVIAN EMBASSIES.
2. TEXT OF COVERING NOTE GIVEN FRENCH EMBASSY ON
AUGUST 12 READS AS FOLLOWS. NOTE IS UNCLASSIFIED BUT
IS NOT BEING RELEASED TO PRESS.
QUOTE: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITS HERewith TO
THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE THE FINAL REPORT OF THE
INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF THE
POSTWAR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KLAUS BARBIE AND THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. WITH REGARD TO THE EFFORTS BY
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO SECURE THE EXTRADITION OF

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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KLAUS BARBIE FROM WESTERN GERMANY TO FRANCE DURING THIS PERIOD, THE INVESTIGATION INDICATED THAT DECISIONS WERE TAKEN BY UNITED STATES ARMY AUTHORITIES IN WESTERN GERMANY TO MISINFORM OTHER UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSION FOR GERMANY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF KLAUS BARBIE IN 1950 AND IN EFFECT TO DENY HIS AVAILABILITY FOR EXTRADITION TO FRANCE. THESE ACTIONS WERE CONTRARY TO THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSION FOR GERMANY. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES ITS DEEP REGRETS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE FOR THESE ACTIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR ITS COOPERATION IN THE COMPLETION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION. END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN. JUSTICE WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN REPORT IS RELEASED.

Q: IS DEPARTMENT SATISFIED THE JUSTICE REPORT TELLS THE WHOLE STORY ABOUT THE USG CONNECTION WITH BARBIE?

A: WE ARE SATISFIED THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS DONE A THOROUGH JOB OF RESEARCHING ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING USG INVOLVEMENT WITH BARBIE IN REACHING ITS CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS NO INTER-AGENCY CONSPIRACY TO CONCEAL BARBIE FROM THE FRENCH.

Q: WAS THERE NO INFORMATION UNTIL NOW REGARDING WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO BARBIE?

A: NO. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE OCCASIONAL RUMORS, THE REAL CONTRIBUTION THIS REPORT MAKES IS SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS BEST WE CAN DO MORE THAN 30 YEARS AFTER THE FACT.

Q: HAVE WE SAID ANYTHING TO THE FRENCH ABOUT THE REPORT?

A: WE HAVE PROVIDED THE FRENCH WITH A COPY OF THE REPORT AND WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR DEEP REGRETS OVER THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN GERMANY IN 1950 TO CONCEAL BARBIE FROM THE FRENCH.

Q: WILL ANYONE BE PROSECUTED FOR THOSE ACTIONS?

A: THE REPORT POINTS OUT THE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS TO ANY PROSECUTION. THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO JUSTICE FOR ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

Q: HOW HAVE WE RESPONDED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE?

A: JUSTICE BRIEFED THE STAFFS OF THE INTERESTED COMMITTEES IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT, COPIES OF WHICH ARE BEING PROVIDED TO THE CONGRESS.

Q: DID BARBIE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR U.S. INTELLIGENCE AFTER HE ARRIVED IN SOUTH AMERICA?

A: AS THE REPORT MAKES CLEAR, BARBIE NEVER WORKED FOR THE USG AT ANY TIME OR IN ANY CAPACITY OTHER THAN THE 1947-50 PERIOD DURING WHICH HE WORKED FOR ARMY COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE. THE INVESTIGATORS, AS THE REPORT INDICATES, MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY TRUTH TO STORIES CIRCULATED IN THE MEDIA ABOUT A CONNECTION WITH HIM IN SOUTH AMERICA. THEY

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FOUND NONE.

Q: WILL THE U.S. HAVE ANY FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN THE BARBIE CASE IN FRANCE?

A: WE AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY BEEN COOPERATING; THEY HAVE BEEN OF ASSISTANCE TO US IN THE JUSTICE INVESTIGATION AND WE HAVE OFFERED TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN THE PROSECUTION OF THEIR CASE. AS YOU KNOW, THE BARBIE CASE IN FRANCE HAS TO DO WITH HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR, WHILE THE U.S. INVESTIGATION RELATED TO HIS POSTWAR CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. AUTHORITIES IN GERMANY.

Q: HAVE THE FRENCH SAID ANYTHING TO US ABOUT THE REFERENCE IN THE REPORT TO BARBIE'S ACTIVITIES AGAINST FRENCH INTELLIGENCE IN GERMANY, OR HAVE WE SAID ANYTHING TO THEM ABOUT THEIR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN GERMANY?

A. NO,

4. ACTION: PLEASE REPORT ANY MEDIA REACTION TO ISSUANCE OF REPORT.

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